

**The project will pose a threat of serious injury to the economic conditions of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area.**

Below are the sales tax receipts from the South Dakota Dept of Revenue for the municipal tax collected by Tripp, SD. From 2009 through 2017.

Calendar Year	Taxable Sales	Tax Collected
2009	5409868	108239
2010	4363280	125031
2011	6259241	125291
2012	5803449	116069
2013	5880795	117828
<b>2014</b>	<b>6699445</b>	<b>134093</b>
2015	5866484	117427
2016	6324521	126607
2017	5048835	101038

Tripp is the town nearest to the Beethoven Wind Farm, which was developed by B&H Wind, the same group that started Prevailing Winds. They claim to be all South Dakota investors (160) but that is not true. They started building it in December of 2013. The Beethoven Wind Farm went on line in May of 15. You will see there was a little bump in 2014 during construction, but after that tax revenues dropped to a number in 2017 **below** every year on the chart. Since the building of the Beethoven Wind Farm in 2014, Tripp has lost its grocery store 2 or 3 times, and now it is open again. The school voted for an opt out in May of 2017, 3 years after the wind farm was built. In the spring of 2018, Tripp's old people's home, the Good Samaritan Center, shut the doors. Tripp had 60-70 more jobs before the Beethoven project, Tripp had more sales tax revenue before Beethoven, and the Tripp School District has not received enough money from Beethoven to even prevent an opt out.

Also I would talk about building permits. Oak Hollow Township in Hutchinson County has all the Beethoven Wind Farm turbines in that county. I have the copies of all the building permits in Oak Hollow Township from 2012 through 2017. There were **no** permits for homes in that time period. On the other hand, Avon Township had **4** new homes built in that same time period. If you look at the outlay of the turbines, and you look at Oak Hollow Township you see about 13 inhabited residences in Oak Hollow Township and approximately 57 inhabited residences in Avon Township. The point I am trying to make is that Avon Township has had a very robust building climate because of its proximity to Avon and its businesses and school. If building permits for houses stop completely or are curtailed in a dramatic way, this is negative to the local economy.

Although the applicant and Jeff Haverly from the Governor's Office of Economic Development continually remind us of the "economic vitality" and "economic boom" to the local economies, this is as usual, always just a projection. The figures above prove that in the case of Beethoven, **THERE WAS AN ECONOMIC DECLINE FOR TRIPP.**

They also talk about jobs. In Avon they have a building owned by a local Prevailing Winds investor. There are 5 or 6 people there working for GE doing the maintenance on the Beethoven Farm for Northwestern. But these jobs also created an economic decline for the simple reason, this whole Beethoven Project raised the rates of Northwestern customers 15 ½%. Then the PUC added on 9 million dollars a year to force the rate payers to pay for the Beethoven Wind Farm. I know this spreads out over all Northwestern Customers, but on a local economic basis, all our older people on fixed incomes got hurt. They are paying higher utility bills, they are paying for the wind farm itself, they are paying for the maintenance people's wages, and the rent and taxes on building. The rate payers are paying for everything. To my knowledge, there is only one of the 5 or 6 employees that lives in Avon. The rest live elsewhere.

So, somebody please tell me where the economic benefits to a small town are? Show me some numbers in INCREASED sales tax receipts. Show me more homes built within wind farms. Tripp is a ghost town and Avon will be one too if you surround it with wind turbines, because people NEVER move into a wind farm. THEY MOVE OUT. So, for these reasons, I believe this permit should be denied because it will cause a total net economic loss for the Avon area, as proven by the Beethoven Wind Farm and the Tripp Community. These are facts, not projections or estimates as the wind developers use to sell these projects to the community.

Gregg Hubner



Avon, SD 57315